



Overview of DAS Activities

DAS supports purchasing staff decisions in weighing environmentally friendly choices. This is not an exhaustive or complete list of all environmentally friendly things we do; but is an overview. We've interpreted environmentally friendly here as products and services having recycled content, reduced energy consumption, reduced toxicity, potential for reuse, reduced transportation requirements, or reduced dependence on landfills.

We follow the rules set forth here in regards to:

- **Governor's Executive Order # 56:** recycling, recycled content products, landfill waste reduction, etc. (see e-mail attachment)
- [Governor's Executive Order # 41](#): bio-fuels, energy reduction, life cycle cost analysis, etc.
- [Governor's Executive Order # 6](#): Establishes a Green Government Initiative for the State.

In addition; DAS has accomplished the following:

Lower Energy:

DAS has cooperated with the Drake University Ag Center to investigate ways to boost the amount of locally grown foods purchased for our state facilities. Purchasing locally produced foods reduces transportation energy consumption and pollution.

DAS Architectural & Engineering division has cooperated with the DNR Energy Bureau and energy providers in many [energy saving projects](#).

Recycled Content Products:

Carpeting - through cooperative efforts with the Iowa DNR and Economic Development Recycle Iowa Office and their participation in [Midwestern Workgroup on Carpet Recycling](#), we have a flooring contract that provides newly manufactured carpeting that has recycled content, refurbished carpeting, and a method for recycling the old carpeting that is being replaced.

Paper – office papers that we have on contract follow the federal percentages for recycled content (now 30%). Sanitary papers such as paper towels, tissue, and toilet paper also follow the federal guidelines for recycled content.

Plastic bags, and Office supplies – contain recycled content and are reported to the Legislature annually. (see attachment)

Office Furniture – Remanufactured/refurbished office furniture is bid along with new office furnishings.

Reduced Toxicity:

Lighting – DAS lighting contracts include fluorescent lighting that contain lower levels of mercury, a persistent bio-accumulative toxin, and spent tubes are recycled.

Vehicles - Selecting the lowest life cycle cost vehicles available (which takes into account fuel efficiency) reduces green house gases and other tailpipe pollutants. We also have hybrid gas/electric and emphasize alternative fuel vehicles in our fleet.

Hazardous Waste – are handled and abated by authorized vendors. Recyclable items, such as cathode ray tubes, are recycled when possible.

Life Cycle Costing (LCC):

The length of a products usable life, it's efficiency while we own it, and it's end-of-life disposal can greatly affect the overall environmental profile of the product. Where reliable, comparable, and independent data is available; we life cycle cost equipment such as commercial laundry appliances, copiers, and vehicles. Where LCC data is not available, we encourage the purchase of [Energy Star](#) labeled equipment. We have invited purchasing agents to seminars regarding the new [EPEAT](#) labeling system for electronics and Life Cycle Cost Analysis.

Buy Locally & TSB:

Although we cannot show preference to Iowa based businesses unless there is a tie in the bid; certified Targeted Small Business (TSB) do receive some preferential treatment. By their very nature TSBs are only businesses located within Iowa, so purchasing from a TSB is "buying local".

Recycling on Complex:

DAS received the Des Moines [Metro Waste Authority Business Recycling Award](#) in 2004.

Office Paper Recycling – DAS provides desk-side recycling services for all agencies on the Capitol Complex and was awarded, in conjunction with the DNR, the national "Clean Your Files Day" award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Wooden Pallet Recycling - Pallets are collected and ground for mulch.

Used Furniture and Electronic Equipment – is refurbished, resold, or recycled in a cooperative agreement with [Iowa Prison Industries](#).

Scrap Metal Recycling – recyclable metal is collected and taken to local metal dealers.

Fluorescent tubes - are collected and recycled.

Used Oil and Auto Batteries – are collected and recycled at the Fleet Services building.

Construction/Demolition:

DAS has forged partnerships with area agencies to reuse used building materials (i.e. [Home Recycling Exchange](#) on Executive Hills, Capitol Annex, 10 homes and a church projects) and then recycle those materials that cannot be reused at local recycling facilities (i.e. [Environmental Reclamation & Recycling](#) , or [Phoenix C & D Recycling](#))

[Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#) recommendations and techniques for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality techniques are used where practicable. The Capitol Complex Master Plan recommends usage of LEED and we have used some LEED techniques in the new construction of the Ankeny labs as well as the renovation of the Public Safety building. We have not certified a LEED rated building yet; but it is a future goal. DAS participated in the development of the [Iowa Sustainable Design Guide](#).

DAS was awarded the [Governor's Environmental Excellence Award](#) in waste management for reusing and recycling a high proportion of structural materials in the Executive Hills demolition project.

DAS benefits through our membership in the [Responsible Purchasing Network \(RPN\)](#), and the DNRs membership in the [Product Stewardship Institute](#)

In regards to further improvement; we could also make use of [environmental calculators](#) and abundant free information resources (i.e. [Green Seal](#), [Federal Comprehensive Procurement Guideline \(CPG\) program](#), [Office of the Federal Environmental Executive](#), and cooperation with subject matter experts at [Iowa DNR](#)). Although we do not have the staff of specialists for environmentally preferable products and services, we would do well to draw upon resources provided by some of the leaders in green purchasing, such as the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts](#), [State of California](#), and the [State of](#)

[Minnesota](#), as well as national purchasing associations such as [NIGP](#) and [NASPO](#). We could review the ramifications of requiring only purchases of products carrying environmental labels such as [EPEAT](#), [Energy Star](#), [Green Guard](#), [EcoLogo](#), Blue Swan, [Green Seal](#), [TCO](#).

Respectfully,
Debbie and Doug

Debbie O'Leary

*Procurement Services, Division Administrator
Department of Administrative Services
515-281-8384
Hoover Building, A level
Des Moines, IA 50319
Debbie.OLeary@iowa.gov*

Douglas Reed, Purchasing Agent

Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
Hoover State Office Building, Level A
Des Moines, IA 50319-0105

doug.reed@iowa.gov

Phone: (515) 242-6151, Fax: 515-242-5974

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